

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG IS PFOR

SUBJ: OPENING SESSION OF MILITARY WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA

1. FIRST MEETING OF MILITARY WORKING GROUP WENT OFF SMOOTHLY THIS MORNING (SEPT 9). GENERAL SIILASVUO MADE BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT AND EACH SIDE RESPONDED IN MODERATE AND BUSINESSLIKE TONE, GAZIT SPEAKING FOR ISRAEL AND MAGHDOUB FOR EGYPT. SIILASVUO'S AGENDA AND TIMETABLE WERE ACCEPTED WITH TWO CHANGES: (A) ISRAELIS HAD SUGGESTED LAST EVEING SOME PURELY TECHNICAL CHANGES SO AGENDA ITEMS WOULD RELATE DIRECTLY TO BREAK-DOWN OF ISRAELI WORKING PAPERS WHICH WILL PROVIDE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION; (B) EGYPTIANS WANT TO TAKE UP PRINCIPLES OF OVERALL REDEPLOYMENT BEFORE MOVING TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AREA, AND ISRAELIS AGREED. SIILASVUO SEES REDEPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN AREA, AS DO ISRAELIS, AS ESSENTIALLY A ONE-MOVE OPERATION, SO HE DOES NOT FORSEE MUCH DELAY IN HIS PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR TALKS AS RESULT OF INTRODUCING THIS SUBJECT FIRST. FIRST MEETING LASTED ONLY FORTY MINUTES. PARTIES HAVE NOW RETIRED TO STUDY WORKING PAPERS AND WILL RECONVENE AT 1630 FOR FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION.

2. SINCE MEETING ADJOURNED, GAZIT HAS CALLED TO REPORT ON MEETING AND SEEMED SATISFIED WITH HOW IT HAD

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GONE, INCLUDING TONE OF MAGHDOUB'S STATEMENT. OSMAN

HAD NO NEGATIVE COMMENT ON THIS MORNING'S MEETING AND SEEMS RELAXED ABOUT METHOD OF PROCEEDING.

3. SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM. UN OFFICER JOHAN, UNABLE TO GET THROUGH ON PHONE TO ANYONE IN SOVIET MISSION YESTERDAY, FINALLY JUST LEFT MESSAGE AT END OF DAY ON TIME AND PLACE FOR TODAY'S MEETING. NO RESPONSE. ONLY INDICATION OF SOVIET INTEREST HAS BEEN SOVIET OFFICER'S POINTED QUESTIONS TO US MISSION OFFICER ABOUT SET-UP AT MEETINGS, MY ROLE, AND HOW LONG I WILL STAY DURING WIDE-RANGING LUNCH CONVERSATION ARRANGED TODAY AT HIS INVITATION. MISSION OFFICER TOOK LINE BEING TAKEN WITH PRESS.

4. I DROPPED IN ON JOHAN AND SIILASVUO INFORMALLY FOR TEN MINUTES BEFORE MEETING, GOT COPIES OF WORKING PAPERS, AND RETIRED TO MY OFFICE ACROSS THE HALL FROM THEIRS. SIILASVUO CAME OF HIS OWN ACCORD DIRECTLY FROM MEETING TO BRIEF ME. WILL CONTINUE THIS PROCEDURE.

5. PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK PICTURES AFTER PARTIES SEATED. OSMAN CAUSED LAST MINUTE FLAP BY ASKING THAT NO PRESS BE PRESENT BUT CONCURRED IN UN PLAN WHEN ASSURED THERE WOULD BE NO HANDSHAKES. I HAVE TURNED ASIDE ALL PRESS QUERIES. MISSION IS RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS BY SAYING I AM NOT ATTENDING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS BUT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PARTIES.

6. GROUP WILL BEGIN THIS AFTERNOON AFTER DISCUSSION OF OVERALL REDEPLOYMENT TO MOVE SYSTEMATICALLY THROUGH SERIES OF BRIEF WORKING PAPERS ON SOUTHER AREA PROVIDED BY ISRAELIS ON UNEF FUNCTIONS, UNEF POSTS IN HAMMAN FARAUN AREA, UNEF CHECKPOINTS AND CAMPS, EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN POLICE, DEMARCATION OF LINES, TRANSFER OF OIL INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING A POSSIBLE SUB-COMMISSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, COMMON USE OF ROADS, BUFFER ZONES 2A AND 2B, TIMING OF REDEPLOYMENT. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS ISRAELIS HAVE THROWN IN NO HOOKERS. AS WE ALL KNOW FROM TALKS DURING NEGOTIATIONS, TRICKIEST ISSUES WILL BE UNEF INSPECTIONS, SIZE AND SECRET

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ARMS OF POLICE FORCE, OILFIELD TRANSFER BECAUSE IT IS TECHNICALLY COMPLEX, COMMON USE OF ROADS. ON LAST ITEM, ISRAELI PAPER PROPOSES DAILY USE OF COMMON USE SECTIONS DIVIDING DAY AND NIGHT INTO SIX TIME PERIODS WITH FIFTEEN MINUTES BETWEEN AND WITH THE TWO SIDES ALTERNATING. ALTHOUGH ORIGINAL IDEA WAS USE ON ALTERNATE DAYS, THIS PROPOSAL LOOKS REASONABLE UNTIL YOU REALIZE THAT THE SIXTH PERIOD DURING WHICH ISRAELIS

WOULD USE ROAD WOULD RUN THROUGH ENTIRE NIGHT, FROM
1915 TO 0500. I SUSPECT QUESTION OF ROAD USE WILL BE
MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL. APART FROM THIS, ISRAELIS
SEEM GENERALLY TO BE PLAYING IT STRAIGHT.

7. YOU MAY BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN TIMETABLE
ISRAELIS ARE PROPOSING FOR SOUTHERN AREA:
OCTOBER 5 (NICE COINCIDENCE)--INTRODUCTION OF
TECHNICIANS BY EGYPT INTO RAS SUDAR OIL INSTALLATIONS AREA;
NOVEMBER 5--INTRODUCTION OF TANKER INTO RAS
SUDAR ANCHORAGE TO TAKE OFF OIL ACCUMULATION;
NOVEMBER 2-21--DEMARCATON OF LINE M,
NOVEMBER 24-30--TRANSFER OF ABU RODEIS OIL
INSTALLATIONS AND ENTRY AND DEPLOYMENT OF UNEF
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF UN CHECKPOINTS AND POSTS;
DECEMBER 1--TRANSFER OF ENTIRE SOUTHERN AREA.
NOVEMBER 24 TURNOVER SEEMS A WEEK LATER THAN IT SHOULD
BE, BUT I ASSUME EGYPTIANS WILL PICK THIS UP AND THERE
WILL BE FLEXIBILITY.

8. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV. ABRAMS

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